रेल मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीज): (क) जी हां। यह आठ किलोमीटर लम्बा मीटर लाइन का एक अलग-थलग पड़ा अलाभप्रद खंड था।

(ख) बरारी तथा थाना बीहपुर को जोड़ने वाली रेलवे स्टीमर सेवाएं जुलाई 1986 में स्थायी रूप से बंद कर दी गई थीं।

National Commission on bonded labour

*244. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress made for the release and rehabilitation of bonded labour under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act has been dismal so for;

(b) whether the Bonded Labour liberation Front has proposed the setting up of a National Commission on Bonded labour.

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up the same; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard together with the composition and the temrs of reference thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the responsibility of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour rests with the State Governments. According to the information made available by various State Governments, 2,42,618 bonded labour had been identified and released, out of which 2,10,091 had been rehabilitated till 31st March, 1989. The Bonded Labour Liberation Front has recently proposed setting up of a National Commission on Bonded Labour. The proposal is being examined by the Government.

National Research Centre for Arid Horticulture at Cuddapah

*245. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Research Centre for Arid Horticulture at Cuddapah in Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh which is having Arid Climatic conditions; and

(b) if so, the details tcereof; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Task Force constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1987 to select a site for the Centre has not recommended Cuddapah, as in Andhra Praeesh only about 6.88 per cent of the area falls under the arid zone and it also suffers from severe climatic shifts from semi-arid to arid conditions.

Payment of Provident Fund dues to the contract labour

*246. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Public Sector Undertakings to deduct provident fund amount from the wages of labour/employees employed through contract;

(b) if so, whether these dues are paid to the contract labour at their place of work; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The provident fund contribution of the employees will be credited to their individual provident fund accounts and is to paid to them at the time of their retirement, resignation etc. at the address indicated by them.

Cases pending under the working Journalists Act

*247. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases under the Working Journalists Act are